GIS User Meeting Minutes – March 11th – Montlake 370W

In attendance

CB:	Mindi Sheer, Jen Burke
EC:	Mindy Rowse, Danielle Werner
FRAM:	Curt Whitmire
SDM Team:	Flo Damian
REUT:	Darran May

Announcements:

ESRI International Users Conference

Rich Kang from the SDM Team has graciously offered to a Center employee one ESRI license-based free pass for registration to the ESRI Annual Conference in San Diego from July 7 to 11, 2003. This is an $800 - $1000 value, so is a great opportunity. For more details about the conference, go to http://www.esri.com/events/uc/index.html.

Rich and Jeff will fill in the details on the requirements for putting your name in the "hat" to be considered for this free pass (with your supervisor's permission, of course)!!!

Meeting Discussions

ESRI ArcGIS and ERDAS license issues at the Center

ERDAS licenses

- We currently have two evaluation licenses for the full version of– Version 8.6 in addition to our existing full version license for ERDAS Imagine 8.5. The evaluation licenses are available to Center users who are currently unable to access the single license of ERDAS Imagine Version 8.5, and lasts 30 days from initiation. Please contact Jeff or Brendan for more information.

ESRI ArcGIS

- We are currently experiencing a deficient number of ESRI ArcGIS licenses. GIS Users are reminded to set their ArcGIS license manager to the ArcView floating license unless the ArcInfo license is needed to help alleviate problems accessing GIS software.

- At our previous meeting we discussed money allocation for additional ArcGIS licenses here at the Center. A couple of GIS Users have already discuss the need for additional licenses w/ division directors and/or supervisors, and there seems to be some $ available.

- Group consensus is that money would be most usefully applied to purchasing additional ArcGIS licenses in place of additional ERDAS Imagine licenses.

- SDM will assess the ArcGIS user pool to determine future distribution of funds. In the meantime, SDM will make final decisions on these more immediate purchases and give an update on fiscal needs and timelines at the next Users meeting

Geodatabases

Discussed the distinction between ArcSDE (Arc Spatial Data Engine) geodatabases vs. personal desktop geodatabases. Flo from SDM was in attendance and provided valuable insight into questions concerning ESRI's future inclination to relax support for coverages and advance geodatabases. Flo discussed the value of feature classes, structure and benefits of data behavior in the geodatabase structure, outlook on shapefiles, difficulties associated with using geodatabases, i.e. network and administration needs in addition to security for accessing database), and upcoming release of ArcGIS 8.3.

Mindi confirmed an opportunity for Chris Wayne from ESRI Seattle regional office to discuss a topic of our choice. GIS Users expressed interested in learning more about ArcSDE and personal geodatabases, ArcGIS extension Geostatistical Analyst, and 3-D modeling. Because these topics concern GIS Users center-wide, this meeting will encourage Sand Point and field station participation.

Presentations

Jen Burke and Mindi Sheer attended the AFS Oregon Chapter meeting in Eugene at the end of February, and gave a brief overview of three of the presentations from the Geospatial Session at that meeting. These presentations will be made available on the SDM website for download.

> "*Spatial Data in Aquatic Management: Characterizing Uncertainty*"
> Mindi Sheer (NOAA Fisheries) and Sharon Clarke (Oregon State University)

> "*Landscape Change: Mapping Historic and Contemporary Land Cover Along the Columbia River Estuary* "
> Ralph Garono (Earth Design Consultants, Inc.) and Jennifer Burke (NOAA Fisheries)

> "*Resolution and Accuracy in Remote Sensing and Modeling of Stream Temperature*"
> Matt Boyd (Oregon DEQ)

> "*Field Data and Opinion Based Mapping in Status Review of Great Basin Redband Trout*"
> Rebecca Flitcroft, Jeff Dambacher, and Kim Jones (ODFW, Corvallis)
> (Overview not presented, but presentation will be provided on the SDM Website)

Action Items

- Mindi will deliver AFS PowerPoint presentations to SDM staff for posting on SDM website

- Mindi and/or Jen will follow up on speaker for next Users meeting

- Rich or Jeff will clarify the requirements for "winning" the free" pass to the ESRI User conference at the April GIS Users meeting.

Topics and Date of Next Meeting:

- Changes, new features, and topology in the upcoming release of ArcGIS 8.3?

- Matt Boyd (see topic title above) has offered to give a presentation here at the center on his stream temperature work.

- Chris Wayne, the Seattle ESRI rep, has offered to come to one of our next GIS Users meeting and give a presentation.

- Expand meeting topics to include marine-related GIS issues to incorporate interests of FRAM – we have users here and in Newport that are interested in 3D spatial data methods.

- Date of next meeting will be posted for the group shortly.

For more information on the GIS User group or to be added to the GIS User's mailing list, please contact Mindi.Sheer@noaa.gov , 206-860-3428 or Jennifer.Burke@noaa.gov, 206-860-3362